

## **Failure to give Arabs a voice feeds the terrorism monster**

*FULL PRESENTATION BEGINS AT THE END OF ORAL PRESENTATION on  
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### **Oral Presentation by Ray Hanania**

On Sept. 11, 2001, I joined leaders of 25 Arab American organizations in Chicago that represented 90 percent of Cook County's 250,000 Arab Americans, to:

- declare unequivocal allegiance to America,
- denounce without qualification the terrorism
- offer support, as Americans, to help this nation face the terrorist threat

As a veteran journalist with 32 years experience, I drafted and distributed a press release to all the major Chicago area news media.

Only one reporter "swung by" to check in on us. He left abruptly saying there was another press conference, one organized by two leaders at a nearby mosque who declared the terrorism "was the result of American foreign policy."

It insensitive, inappropriate, stupid and ridiculous in the wake of so many innocent people dying. Why was that extremist on TV, in the newspapers and on radio, while the voices of 25 responsible leaders were ignored?

Was it because the media is driven by a news marketplace where competition forces the best to rise to the top, by seeking out the most responsible sources to obtain complete and accurate facts?

Or, is it because a non-conspiratorial cabal of media moguls have, over the years, grabbed up media outlets like Monopoly Game board property. They've undermined the ability of journalists to zero-in on the essence of a story, forcing reporters, rather, to seek out the most outrageous and shocking headline, because shock, not truth, sells newspapers.

The smaller the ownership the circle, the more we shift from truth, fairness, diversity and accuracy to making money.

This has resulted in a lack of education by the American public, a lack of education that has turned into racism and hate. Before Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, there were seven Arab American newspapers in Chicago. After Sept. 11, six of them closed. There are about 250 Arab American journalists in America, half of them are unemployed. Moderate Arab American voices are shut out of the mainstream news media because the emphasis is on shock.

There's something wrong with this picture. Don't attempt to adjust the vertical and horizontal controls. Don't change the volume. Don't change the channel. We must restore the system, because professional journalism in America is broken.

We must open the mainstream American media. Improve it. Demand that it live up to the principles that are its foundation. When we talk about diversity, we should mean diversity in its richest, not narrowest, sense. Diversity insures that we find the truth, not the spin preferred by a cluster of media owners.

I beg you to open the door to the news media and give Arab Americans and other ethnic minorities a real voice. Recognize our talents, cover our societies. Do this country a favor to help fight the threat of terrorism and extremism and prevent violence and by stopping the avalanche that is channeling independent media thought through corporate media conglomerates who are driven by the typeset of a story rather than by the story's truth or its essence.

I urge you to prevent the consolidation of ownership of the media which undermines media diversity and rebuffs minority participation by Americans like myself and other Arabs.

Today's world demands that we see the whole picture, the truth. In all its colors. White, black, brown, yellow, red and also olive.

Giving Arab Americans a voice in the media undermines extremism and the ability of fanatics to harvest that extremism to enlist individuals to commit acts of terrorism and violence in this country.

When you deny a community the ability to participate in the national dialogue, to look into the mirror of American society and see themselves as full participants, you create a people who become frustrated, angry, isolated, paranoid and believing that the system is out to get them.

Human beings must look in the mirror of society and see themselves. If they do not, they become like vampires, outcasts, strangers, suspects, profiled as criminals.

Tightening the ownership noose chokes diversity, shutting out the least powerful, and creating an atmosphere where extremism thrives.

In the end, this media monopoly contributes into making my community targets of extremists who harvest among us to find willing conspirators to commit acts of terrorism and violence. Frustrated with no hope, even the best person can become the coddled soldier for extremists, redirecting their frustrations towards extremist beliefs, ideals and actions. That is how a normal person becomes a terrorist who

hijacks a commercial plane and then nosedives it into a building filled with innocent people.

Allow us our voice. Stop extremism. Expand the media, not contract. Return journalism to the ideals that it was meant to foster by putting the focus back on principle rather than profit. Put Free back into Free Speech by returning journalism to the people.

Thank you

**Ray Hanania**

*Board member, National Arab American Journalists Association*

*Award winning columnist, named Best Ethnic American Columnist in America 2006/2007 by the New America Media; recipient of three Society of Professional Journalism Lisagor Awards for Column writing.*

*Palestinian Arab American based in Chicago*

## REMAINING PRESENTATION

### OPENING: DISFRANCHISING ARABS FEEDS TERRORISM

Arab Americans are an excluded society, discriminated not once, not twice but multiple times on multiple levels by multiple groups.

Their voices are not being heard in the mainstream American media nor in the public discussion, and that should be a red flag for Americans.

Today, the Middle East, the Arab World are unquestionably the most important topics challenging the American way of life. What happens in the Middle East and in the Arab World directly impacts not only the everyday life of Americans, but the American economy and American security.

Yet, why is it that Americans are so resistant, at all levels, to giving Arab Americans a voice in this country?

I believe that when people are pushed into a corner, not as individuals but on a larger scale of being pushed into a corner as a whole society as Arab Americans are being pushed today, this creates the most optimum setting for extremists to enlist terrorists.

By denying Arab Americans a voice, are we actually feeding the extremists who exploit the growing Arab American sense of frustration? If you fail to give Arab Americans a feeling that they are a part of society's solutions, they will become part of the bigger problem.

Not everyone who falls into this cataclysm of frustration and disenfranchisement will turn to extremism and terrorism, but a few will convince themselves that the only way to get attention for what they believe is important is through the use of terrorism. And this pool of frustrated people becomes the pool from which the extremists enlist terrorists to commit the acts of terrorism around the globe.

As an Arab American, we have no voice to convey our views, to allow us to engage in the national dialogue and understanding of the issues that face us, and no opportunity to contribute to that dialogue to benefit our own country here in America.

Here is an overview of the Arab American media. We barely cover 22 states with 80 publications, a population of 4.5 million Arabs in America who have no voice, who are disenfranchised, who are excluded and who look in the mirror of our society – the pages of our newspapers, the TV screens of our television shows and the speakers of our radio stations, and they do not see their images. They are left out like vampires, discarded, ignored and left to become the harvest fields for extremists who are looking to find the one individual who will cross the line from frustration and anger to terrorism. Out of thousands of disenfranchised people, one person will always turn to the most violent means to demand what they believe is their due.

# STATE OF ARAB AMERICAN MEDIA

## Arab American Newspapers/Magazines

### Overview of Arab American Media in the United States

*Prepared by the National Arab American Journalists Association*

#### **Phase I Study**

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### Overview of Arab American Media in the United States

September 2007

There are a total of 80 newspapers and national magazines or newsletters that currently produce news in the United States, serving Arab American populations in 5 regions, and in 22 states. That leaves 28 states that do not have official Arab American newspapers, yet Arab Americans are spread out through all 50 Continental American states including Hawaii and Alaska.

#### **Regional Breakdown of newspapers**

Midwest – 29 – (6 States) IL., MI., IND, OH, MN, WI

South – 4 – (2 States) FL., GA.

East – 19 – (8 States) NY, NJ, MD, MA, VA, PA DC, CT

Northwest – 2 – (2 States) OR, WA

West – 26 – (4 States) CA, TX, AZ NV

(Including National Magazines – 11)

Most of the newspapers are published either monthly or twice monthly. Nine (9) of the listed publications are magazines, which focus almost exclusively on politics or on religious issues. The rest are based in Arab communities where they are published and provide a mix of mostly international politics and news, and local news. Some are published in Arabic only, and most are published in both Arabic and English.

There are no audited circulation figures for any of the newspapers but a partial survey of the publications show they publish between 3,000 and 30,000 copies per edition. Several of the newspapers claim “regional” distribution, meaning they are published in one state but distributed in several nearby states. This is most common in the East Region.

#### **Regional and State Breakdown of newspapers (*this list changes rapidly*)**

## **MIDWEST - 29**

(6 states)

### **Illinois - 13**

The Future Newspaper  
Tinley Park, IL

Al-Offok Al-Arabi  
Newspaper  
Oak Lawn, IL

The National Arab  
American Times  
Orland Park, IL

Al-Waseet American  
Newspaper  
Burbank, IL

Chicago Muslim  
Newsletter  
Orland Park, IL  
Monthly Magazine  
Lebanese American News  
Agency, Inc.  
Farmington Hills,  
Michigan

Community Voice  
Newspaper  
Dearborn, MI

Michigan Arab Times  
Dearborn, Michigan

The Muslim Magazine  
Fenton, MI

Muslim Media Network  
Inc.  
Farmington Hill, MI

The Muslim Observer  
Farmington Hills, MI

The Orient Newspaper  
Ann Arbor, MI.,

Chicago Muslim Yellow  
Pages  
Chicago IL

Muslim Journal  
Bridgeview IL

Muslim Journal  
Hazel Crest, IL

Muslims Weekly  
Newspaper  
Bloomington, IL

Pakistan Times  
Chicago IL

Spirit Magazine  
Women's Magazine  
Bridgeview IL,

Super Ad Magazine

### **Indiana - 1**

Islamic Horizons  
Magazine  
Plainfield, IN \

### **Ohio - 1**

Al-Sahafa Newspaper  
Cleveland, Ohio

### **Minnesota - 2**

American Muslim  
Magazine  
Brooklyn Park, MN

MIZNA Journal  
Minneapolis, MN.,

### **Wisconsin - 1**

Worth, IL

Voice of Jordan  
Newspaper  
Oak Lawn, IL

### **Michigan - 11**

Arab American Journal  
Dearborn MI

Arab American News  
Dearborn  
Dearborn, Michigan

The Forum Newspaper  
Dearborn, MI.,

InFocus Magazine  
Dearborn Heights, MI

Lebanese  
Al-Jumuah Magazine  
Madison, WI

## **WEST - 26**

(4 States)

### **California - 16**

Al-Watan  
Anaheim CA

al-Arab Newspaper  
Glendale, CA

An-Nahar USA Edition  
Whittier, CA

The Arab World  
Newspaper  
Anaheim, CA

Arab World Newspaper  
Anaheim, CA

Arab American Business  
Magazine  
Huntington Beach, CA

Arab American Journal  
Sunnyvale, CA

The Beirut Times  
Newspaper  
Los Angeles, CA.,

Immigrant Magazine  
Los Angeles, CA

The Independent Monitor  
Anaheim, CA

ALO-Hayati Magazine  
Northridge, CA

InFocus Magazine  
Anaheim, CA

ISLAMICA Magazine  
Los Angeles, CA

The Minaret  
Los Angeles, California

News Circle Publishing  
House  
Glendale, CA

Al-Akhbar  
Los Angeles

#### **Texas - 8**

Al-Wehda  
Alief, Texas

A1 Arab Newspaper  
(A-One Newspaper)  
Houston, TX

Ar-Zaitonah Newspaper  
Dallas, Texas,

Sharq Garb Newspaper  
Houston - TX

Al-Madar Newspaper  
Houston, Texas

Aramco Magazine  
Houston, Texas,

The Arab Times  
Montgomery TX

Al-Ittihaad  
San Antonio, TX

#### **Arizona - 1**

The Muslim Voice  
Phoenix AZ

#### **Nevada - 1**

Orthodox Christian News  
Service, Inc.  
Carson City, Nevada

#### **NORTHWEST - 2** (2 States)

#### **Washington State - 1**

Our Rising Star  
Magazine  
Issaquah, WA

#### **Oregon - 1**

Muslim Business Link  
Directory  
Portland, OR 97219

#### **SOUTH - 4** (2 States)

#### **Georgia - 3**

An-Nour Newspaper  
Atlanta, GA

Azizah Magazine  
Atlanta, GA

The Voice Magazine  
Alpharetta, GA

#### **Florida - 1**

Phoenicia Newspaper  
Princeton, Florida

#### **EAST - 19** (8 States)

#### **New York - 5**

Aramica Newspaper  
Brooklyn, NY

Arab Gazette Newspaper  
Brooklyn, NY

Cedar News Newspaper  
Brooklyn, NY

The Mirror International  
Greenpoint NY

Muslims Weekly  
Newspaper  
Jamaica, NY

#### **New Jersey - 5**

Al Shaab al-Araby  
Newspaper  
S. Hackensack, NJ

Arab Voices Newspaper  
Paterson, NJ

Al-Horeya  
Middletown, NJ.,

Al-Itidal  
Clifton NJ

Al Manassah al-  
Arabeyah  
North Bergen ,NJ

**Pennsylvania - 1**

Arab Community News  
newspaper  
Philadelphia, PA

**Virginia - 1**

The Maronite Voice  
Newsletter  
Glen Allen, VA

**Connecticut - 1**

Shems Arab American  
Life  
Norwalk, CT

**Massachusetts - 2**

Sophia Magazine  
Roslindale, MA

Profile News Newspaper  
West Roxbury, MA

**Maryland - 1**

Via Dolorosa Newspaper  
Silver Spring, MD

**Washington DC - 3**

Washington Report on  
ME Affairs  
Washington D.C.

Al-Nashra  
The Arab American  
Newspaper

Washington DC

Pharaohs Business  
Magazine  
Washington DC

**National Magazines - 11**

Arab American Business  
Magazine  
Azizah Muslim Woman's  
Magazine  
Sophia Melkite Church  
Magazine  
Hathihe Ramallah  
Magazine  
Maronite Voice Magazine  
Islamica Magazine  
Washington Report on  
ME Affairs  
The Minaret Magazine  
Islamic Horizons  
Magazine  
ALO Magazine  
Aramco Magazine



## RADIO STATIONS

There are about 17 independent radio programs that focus on either Arab American issues or Islamic issues. These are small band programs. Only about 10 of them focus on Arab American issues.

**AMIN Radio Live**  
WGOP AM 700  
Falls Church, VA

**Arab Voice of Chicago Radio**  
WCEV 1450 Radio  
Saturday 4 - 6 pm  
Yousif Marei , Manager & Host  
Ashraf Abu Khalf, Host

**Ayad Rahim Radio Show**  
WJCU-FM Radio  
University Heights, Ohio

**Conversation with Arab Activists**  
WHPK FM Radio  
Chicago IL  
Shatha Almutawa host, producer

**Houston Arab Radio Program**  
PFT Houston 90.1 FM  
Wed. 10 PM - 11 PM  
Live Cal-in: 713-526-5738  
*Supported by the Palestine Affairs Council*  
[www.PalestineAffairsCouncil.org](http://www.PalestineAffairsCouncil.org)

**Just Peace Radio Atlanta**  
Heather Gray and Nadia Ali, Producers

Just Peace – WRFG-  
Atlanta 89.3 FM  
Atlanta GA

**Middle East in Focus Radio**  
KPFK-FM Radio  
North Hollywood, CA  
Don Bustany, Host  
producer  
[Dbustany@att.net](mailto:Dbustany@att.net)

**Middle East Radio Forum**  
KKNT AM Radio  
Phoenix, Arizona  
William Wolf Host

**Palestine weekly Radio Program - Le Coin Palestinien**  
90.3 FM [www.CKUT.ca](http://www.CKUT.ca)  
(live online)  
Monday's 11:00 AM (1 hour show)  
for info: Samer El Elatrash (host)  
[elatrash@hotmail.com](mailto:elatrash@hotmail.com)

**Radio Tahrir**  
WBAI Pacifica Radio  
New York, NY  
Barbara Nimri Aziz  
produced in Pacifica's WBAI studios by Aisha Adawiya, Hassen Abdellah, Fatima Ashraf, Aydin Baldaci, Manaslu

Gurung. BN Aziz is executive producer. We are in our 17th year of continuous broadcasts

**Tame the Tongue Arab Radio**  
Talk Radio Show  
Columbia, MO  
Rihab Sawah  
[mail@kopn.org](mailto:mail@kopn.org)

**United Arab Network Radio**  
Southfield, Michigan

**Voice of Palestine Vancouver Canada**  
CFRO-FM Radio  
Vancouver, BC Canada  
[cfro-psa@coopradio.org](mailto:cfro-psa@coopradio.org)

**UpFront Radio**  
New America Media  
Sunday, 2:30pm  
KALW 91.7 FM  
San Francisco,  
Live: online: [www.kalw.org](http://www.kalw.org)  
[www.newamericamedia.com](http://www.newamericamedia.com)

**Radio Islam**  
Bridgeview III  
[info@radioislam.com](mailto:info@radioislam.com)  
Focuses on Muslim rather than Arab issues.

## Arab American Television Programs

There are about 21 Arab American/Islamic cable TV programs in America, only a dozen focus on Arab American issues. All of them privately funded, very few of them offering broad community reach. Most are on cable TV, some are on satellite. This does not include Arab satellite television broadcasting that originates from the Middle East, which are very popular, such as al-Jazeera Television or ART TV.

**WorldLink TV/Mosaic**  
San Francisco

**Al-Salam TV & Radio**  
Abdilhak Thabit  
Dearborn, Michigan

**Arabic TV Hour**  
Cable TV Programming  
West Roxbury, MA  
Simon Haider

**ANA TV**  
Alexandria, VA  
Phone: (800) 272-2638

**Arab Voice TV**  
Southfield, Michigan

**Arab World TV**  
Sterling Heights, Michigan

**Arab-American Television (AATV)**  
Beverly Hills, California

**Arabic Program Network (APN)**  
Mission Viejo, CA

**The Arabic Show (TV)**  
Fairfax Station, VA

**Arab American TV -**  
Silicon Valley  
Arab American Cultural  
Center (AACC)  
Thursday, Comcast

Ch 15 @ 8.30PM  
[arabcenter\\_sj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arabcenter_sj@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.arabcentersv.org](http://www.arabcentersv.org)

**Arab World TV**  
Mufid Zeidan, Director  
33014 Shrewsbury  
Sterling Hts., MI 48310

**Arabic Time TV**  
Ahmad Berry, Director  
*Dearborn, MI*

**Arab American TV**  
Silicon Valley  
Arab American Cultural  
Center (AACC)  
Thursdays, Comcast  
Ch 15 @ 8.30PM  
[arabcenter\\_sj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arabcenter_sj@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.arabcentersv.org](http://www.arabcentersv.org)

**Belahdan TV Minnesota**  
Ahmed Tharwat  
St. Paul, MN  
[www.belahdan.com/](http://www.belahdan.com/)

**Bridges TV**  
Orchard Park, NY  
a subsidiary of Bridges  
Network, Inc.

**Boston Neighborhood Network**  
Every Sunday at 10:00pm  
and Saturday mornings at

5:00am.  
Boston Neighborhood  
Network Television (For  
Comcast subscribers:  
channel 23) (For RCN  
subscribers: channel 83)  
Note: Airing is for Boston  
residents only  
[MJM099@gmail.com](mailto:MJM099@gmail.com)

**CAIR Washington Live TV**  
"Washington Live," is  
broadcast  
IN ENGLISH on ART TV  
[www.art-tv.net/arabic/](http://www.art-tv.net/arabic/)

**Current Issues TV**  
Hesham Tillawi, Host  
Broadcast live on the  
Internet Thursday night  
from 8 PM to 10 PM  
(CST). Call live line at 337-  
232-4434, ext. 207  
[www.currentissues.tv](http://www.currentissues.tv)  
[Tillawi@aol.com](mailto:Tillawi@aol.com)

**Egypt TV**  
San Diego, California

**Orient TV**  
Wally Jadan, Director  
Southfield, Michigan

**SLTV –San Francisco Bay**  
Indy TV  
[www.streetleveltv.org/index.html](http://www.streetleveltv.org/index.html)

## MY PERSONAL STORY

I am sharing my personal story not because it is the definitive reflection of the experiences of all Arab American journalists, but because it might help to offer some insight into how complicated the problem is.

I have been a journalist since 1975. I was a journalist in high school, partly because I had a great English teacher who showed me how important writing was. I remained hoping to one day become a doctor or an engineer like my brother, cousins, uncles and relatives.

In 1975, I launched the Middle Eastern Voice Newspaper to engage Arab Americans in a dialogue on issues in our community, that was published in English to also help inform Americans about who we are.

In 1976 I was hired by the Southtown Economist Newspaper, which is today the Daily Southtown, and in 1985 was hired by the Chicago Sun-Times, covering City Hall for most of both newspaper assignments.

During that time, I also hosted a live talk show first on WLUP FM Radio, then WBBM FM radio and for 10 years at WLS AM Radio.

In 1993, I launched a community newspaper, The Villager Newspapers, and in 1999 launched the Arab American View newspaper in English and Arabic because I discovered that despite 25 years of communications skill, I could not get one newspapers in Chicagoland to cover an Arab American meeting that was not related to terrorism or controversy. I started the newspaper again believing that if the mainstream media would not cover us, we had to fill in the gap. The newspaper was published for three years until it was forced to shut down after Sept. 11, 2001 as a result of threats to myself, the staff and more importantly, advertisers and stores that distributed the newspaper.

Prior to Sept. 11, 2001, there were seven (7) Arab American newspapers publishing in Chicago. After Sept. 11, 2001, all but one closed, including my own.

November is Arab American Heritage month in Illinois, yet we rarely get any coverage of this event which has been going on for more than 10 years. The news media does not cover us. They only turn their attention on us when they see us as a part of the terrorism story, a part of the story of violence.

Every time there is a terrorist act, a reporter calls me to ask me “What is your reaction?” What’s my reaction? How about the same as yours? What do I have to do with terrorism? Ask me about the achievements on my community, the genuine heroism of Arab Americans fighting in the war, serving this country, knocking on doors of obstacles in our society to reinforce the principle of American freedom for everyone.

I have repeatedly written letters to the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times, and to each and every TV station including WLS, WBBM, WMAQ, WGN and WTTW. Only WLS responded saying they would do some news features on the Arab American community and that was last year. None of the other TV stations felt obligated to cover the Arab American community.

Although every ethnic group and minority has a program on mainstream TV on WLS, WGN, WBBM, WMAQ and WTTW, there is not one – not one – program addressing even basic community issues for Arab Americans.

The worst racists, though, are on radio. Talk radio in Chicago has been ugly and has fanned the flames of hatred, contributing to the extremism that is growing right under our noses.

WLS Radio is one of the most strident of voices, sometimes conveying the most racist views and feelings and if not conveying racist hate, fanning the flames of racist views among its listeners. It is disgraceful and it should be ashamed of what it has become.

## **FACTS ABOUT ARAB AMERICANS**

Further, when the news media does cover us, they do so only in the context of the wake of terrorism, violence and almost always controversy. Worse, the mainstream news media is fixated on confusing coverage of the Muslim American Community and the Arab American community. And that is causing a major strain on Arab Americans.

We are covered as a religious group and that coverage is not even accurate and not even cohesive or comprehensive.

The fact is there are more than 7 million Muslims in the United States according to the Arab American Institute and other Arab and Muslim American organizations. It is an estimate because the U.S. Census does not count us specifically.

Of that 7 million, only about 22 percent of the Muslims are actually Arab, or about 1.9 million Arab Muslims.

There are more than 4.5 million Arabs in the United States. The majority of those Arabs, by virtue of the earlier statistics, are Christian representing Catholics, Orthodox and Protestant religious groups. Yet these Christian Arabs have absolutely no voice in this country.

Arab Americans can be allies in the war on terrorism. If we are given a voice.

[www.hanania.com](http://www.hanania.com)

[www.ArabWritersGroup.com](http://www.ArabWritersGroup.com)

[www.ArabAmericanTVOnline.com](http://www.ArabAmericanTVOnline.com)

[www.NAAJA-US.com](http://www.NAAJA-US.com)

**END**

It's important to remember that the public owns airwaves that radio and TV stations use to broadcast.

- Big Media companies have been permitted to use these airwaves for free – making half a trillion dollars doing so -- under the obligation that they serve local communities.

But for far too long, major decisions about the media have been made behind closed doors without any public input or accountability.

- Over the last three decades, we have seen the number of media companies go from 50 to the 5 or 6 who now control the vast majority of what we watch, listen to and read.
- These Big Media companies do not represent most Americans, are not based in our communities and fail to provide us with the information we need.

In 2003, despite a widespread public outcry, the FCC voted to change the rules so that Big Media companies could get even bigger.

- The courts ultimately rejected the FCC's rule changes and sent them back to the drawing board.
- Now the FCC is on its second try.

We need a media system that reflects a diversity of viewpoints, ideologies and values, and provides a forum where these ideas can be fairly debated and discussed.

Despite being the third-largest media market, just four companies control more than half of Chicago's local media.

These large conglomerates include Tribune Co., ABC/Disney, NBC/GE and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation

The Tribune Company was granted special privileges by the FCC and allowed to cross-own the *Tribune*, WGN, and WGN-AM 720.

- But even in a media market as large as Chicago, cross-ownership has given the Tribune Company too much media power.
- For the hundreds of markets smaller than Chicago, allowing one company to own both the daily newspaper and a broadcast station would be far more devastating to local competition and diversity.

Chicago has one of the lowest levels of minority ownership among markets of its size and diversity.

- People of color are nearly two-thirds of the population in the city of Chicago.
- But despite the city's diversity, people of color own only 5% of Chicago's broadcast radio and TV stations.

- That's lower than the national average where 7.2% of broadcast radio and TV stations are owned by people of color
- In fact, Chicago is the only one of the 10 largest radio markets with single digit levels of minority ownership.

Women own just 6 percent of Chicago's full-power commercial radio and television stations, despite comprising over half the population.

The lack of ownership diversity is reflected in the appalling absence of diversity in the news.

- A study from Northwestern University found that on the top five local TV stations, there are three white people for every person of color featured in the news.
- Women are outnumbered 2-to-1.
- And it is especially troubling that people who are white, male and "official" dominate political coverage.

Internet does NOT replace local news

- Numerous surveys reveal that broadcast television stations and daily newspapers remain the most important sources for local news, with the Internet playing a very minor role.
- A study by Consumer Federation of America showed that only 4 percent named the Internet as their most important source of local news.
- Blogs don't have the staffing or resources to compete with the *Tribune* or *Sun-Times*.

Visit [www.StopBigMedia.com](http://www.StopBigMedia.com) for the latest information on the Chicago hearing